

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ground terminal comprising:  
a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape; and  
at least one connection portion formed integrally with the  
ground terminal body, said connection portion being bendable and  
extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body  
toward a center of the ground terminal;

wherein the connection portion is in direct physical contact  
with a chassis.

2. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 1,  
wherein said ground terminal is formed into a circular annular  
shape or a polygonal annular shape.

3. (Currently Amended) The ground terminal according to  
claim 1, wherein said connection portion of the ground terminal  
has a length larger than a thickness of ~~that portion of~~ a printed  
board in which a mounting hole used to mount the ground terminal  
on the printed board is formed.

4. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 1,  
wherein said ground terminal comprises a plurality of connection  
portions that are formed integrally with the ground terminal body  
and spaced from one another in a direction of the inner

circumference of the ground terminal body, these connection portions being bendable and extending from the inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward the center of the ground terminal.

5. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of connection portions of the ground terminal are symmetric with respect to the center of the ground terminal as viewed in plan.

6. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 1, wherein said ground terminal body is used to establish electrical connection with a printed board to which the ground terminal is mounted.

7. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 6, wherein said ground terminal body is soldered to a solder portion formed as a connection portion in the printed board.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The ground terminal according to claim 4,~~

A ground terminal comprising:

a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape as viewed in plan; and

at least one connection portion formed integrally with the ground terminal body, said connection portion being bendable and extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward a center of the ground terminal,

said ground terminal comprises a plurality of connection portions that are formed integrally with the ground terminal body and spaced from one another in a direction of the inner circumference of the ground terminal body, these connection portions being bendable and extending from the inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward the center of the ground terminal,

wherein each of the plurality of connection portions has a first and a second widthwise half, and the first widthwise half of each connection portion is formed at its tip end with a notch to which a tip end of the second widthwise half of an adjacent connection portion enters.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The ground terminal according to claim 4,~~

A ground terminal comprising:

a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape as viewed in plan; and

at least one connection portion formed integrally with the ground terminal body, said connection portion being bendable and

extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward a center of the ground terminal,  
wherein said ground terminal comprises a plurality of connection portions that are formed integrally with the ground terminal body and spaced from one another in a direction of the inner circumference of the ground terminal body, these connection portions being bendable and extending from the inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward the center of the ground terminal,

wherein among the plurality of connection portions, those connection portions other than a pair of opposed connection portions have their length shorter than a length of the paired connection portions, so that tip ends of the long connection portions enter between the short connection portions.

10. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 1, wherein the connection portion of the ground terminal has a tip end thereof formed into an arcuate shape.

11. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of connection portions of the ground terminal has a tip end thereof formed into an arcuate shape.

12. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of connection portions are comprised of two connection portions each having a wide tip end portion facing that of another connection portion.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The ground terminal according to claim 4,~~

A ground terminal comprising:

a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape as viewed in plan; and  
at least one connection portion formed integrally with the ground terminal body, said connection portion being bendable and extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward a center of the ground terminal,

wherein said ground terminal comprises a plurality of connection portions that are formed integrally with the ground terminal body and spaced from one another in a direction of the inner circumference of the ground terminal body, these connection portions being bendable and extending from the inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward the center of the ground terminal,

wherein each of the plurality of connection portions is formed at its proximal portion with a hole.

14. (Original) The ground terminal according to claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of connection portions is formed into an arrowhead shape whose proximal portion is narrow in width.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The ground terminal according to claim 14,~~

A ground terminal comprising:  
a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape as viewed in plan; and  
at least one connection portion formed integrally with the ground terminal body, said connection portion being bendable and extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward a center of the ground terminal,  
said ground terminal comprises a plurality of connection portions that are formed integrally with the ground terminal body and spaced from one another in a direction of the inner circumference of the ground terminal body, these connection portions being bendable and extending from the inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward the center of the ground terminal, each of the plurality of connection portions is formed into an arrowhead shape whose proximal portion is narrow in width,

wherein each of the plurality of connection portions is formed with an elongated hole extending along a longitudinal axis of the connection portion.

16. (Original) A method for mounting a printed board mounted with a ground terminal to a chassis, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a ground terminal comprising a ground terminal body formed into an annular shape as viewed in plan, and at least one connection portion formed integrally with the ground terminal body, the connection portion being bendable and extending from an inner circumference of the ground terminal body toward a center of the ground terminal;

(b) mounting the ground terminal on the printed board with the ground terminal body aligned with a mounting hole of the printed board; and

(c) placing the printed board mounted with the ground terminal on the chassis, with the mounting hole of the printed board aligned with a tapped hole of the chassis, and tightening a mounting screw inserted to the ground terminal body and the mounting hole of the printed board and threadedly engaged with the tapped hole of the chassis, thereby mounting the printed board to the chassis and causing the connection portion of the

ground terminal to be bent in the mounting hole of the printed board and to be brought in direct contact with the chassis.

17. (New) The ground terminal according to claim 1,  
wherein the chassis is a chassis of a vehicle.